

**Amendments to the Claim**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A method of preparing a 1:1 neutral complex of an essential trace element and a dicarboxylic alpha amino acid, containing one ion of the trace element for each molecule of the dicarboxylic amino acid, with the molecule of the complex having a net zero charge, comprising:

mixing a water soluble monobasic and amino dicarboxylic acid with a water soluble metal salt of the trace element in salt form;

adjusting the pH to neutral in a manner to avoid formation of insoluble metal hydroxides; and,

quickly cooling the reactants to form small crystals of the neutral complexes.

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